

Message Text

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SUBJ: INDIRA GANDHI'S STATE VISIT TO ZAMBIA OCTOBER 14 - 17

REF: NEW DELHI 14652; PORT LOUIS 0932

SUMMARY: INDIAN PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI PAID A FOUR DAY STATE VISIT TO ZAMBIA OCTOBER 14-17. HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT WERE CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS WHICH WERE WELL PUBLICIZED IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. BOTH LEADERS IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS HEWED TO WELL WORN LINES. MRS. GANDHI STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA CONCENTRATED ON THE RACIAL PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. ARRIVAL: THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT, PARTY AND MEDIA WENT ALL OUT TO INSURE MRS. GANDHI A WARM AND LARGE WELCOME. PAPERS URGED ZAMBIANS TO BE ON HAND FOR HER ARRIVAL AND ALL BUSINESSES IN LUSAKA WERE CLOSED SO PEOPLE COULD BE AT THE AIRPORT. THESE EFFORTS INSURED A GOOD CROWD AT THE AIRPORT, WHICH ADDED TO THE COLOR OF THE HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION, AND THE MOTORCADE ROUTE

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TO THE CITY WAS LINED WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN.

2. THE PRINCIPAL CEREMONIAL EVENTS WERE A PUBLIC RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE MAYOR OF LUSAKA, A WELL ATTENDED MASS RECEPTION IN THE KITWE CITY CENTER SQUARE DURING THE PM'S VISIT TO THE COPPERBELT AND A STATE BANQUET HOSTED BY PRES KAUNDA IN LUSAKA. IN AN EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES AT THE BANQUET, KAUNDA COMPLIMENTED PM GANDHI ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN INDIA SINCE A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAD BEEN DECLARED. IN ADDITION, THE PM UNVEILED A PLAQUE AT THE SITE OF THE NEW INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION, VISITED A GAME PARK AND WAS INVESTED WITH THE ZAMBIAN ORDER OF THE GRAND COMPANION OF FREEDOM, FIRST DIVISION, BY PRES KAUNDA. SHE ADDRESSED THE ZAMBIA-INDIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, URGING INDIANS AND ZAMBIANS TO WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY. EARLIER IN KITWE, PM CONGRATULATED PRES KAUNDA ON BUILDING A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY IN ZAMBIA AND NOTED THAT THE ZAMBIANS WERE NOW MORE ENERGETIC THAN ON HER FIRST VISIT IN 1963 ATTRIBUTING THIS TO THEIR POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND LEADERSHIP.

3. COMMENT: THE VISIT WAS A SENTIMENTAL AND CEREMONIAL EXERCISE ALMOST COMPLETELY DEVOID OF NEWSWORTHY SUBSTANCE. THIS IS THE THIRD TIME MRS. GANDHI HAD BEEN TO ZAMBIA. THE LAST TIME WAS 1970 WHEN SHE ATTENDED THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND HER VISIT FOLLOWS THAT OF PRES KAUNDA TO NEW DELHI IN JANUARY 1975 WHEN HE RECEIVED THE NEHRU PRIZE FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

THE TWO BY THIS TIME KNOW EACH OTHER WELL. THE OCCASION PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PM GANDHI TO ELICIT THE APPROBATION OF PRES. KAUNDA FOR HER TOUGH INTERNAL POLICIES FOLLOWING THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN INDIA AND FOR PRES. KAUNDA TO DISPLAY HIS INTERNATIONAL STATURE TO ZAMBIANS THROUGH A DEMONSTRATION OF THE RESPECT IN WHICH HE IS HELD BY A MAJOR WORLD LEADER. BEYOND THEIR MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE SOLIDARITY OF THE THIRD WORLD, HOWEVER, THEIR INTERESTS IN COMMON ARE FEW. MRS. GANDHI STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND MADE ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN

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AFRICA. PRESIDENT KAUNDA VIRTUALLY IGNORED THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES AND TALKED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ABOUT THE RACIAL PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, REPEATING HIS FAMILIAR THEME THAT THE ARMED STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE BLACK MAJORITY HAS OCCURRED. LOW

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